

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 /070 W
-----127542 121959Z /73

P 121345Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1078
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL HALIFAX

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0305

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJ: ASSEMBLY APPROVES QUEBEC OPTION

REF: QUEBEC 0290

1. CLAUSE BY CLAUSE DEBATE ON BILL 101 DRAGGED INTO ITS EIGHTH DAY TODAY WITH ONLY 8 CLAUSES (OUT OF 219) VOTED AND APPROVED. ON WEDNESDAY, THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION CONDUCTING THE DEBATE APPROVED CONTROVERSIAL CLAUSE 69, THE "QUEBEC OPTION" LIMITING ACCESS TO ANGLOPHONE SCHOOLS IN THE PROVINCE.

2. AS THE PROPOSED LAW NOW STANDS, ACCESS TO ENGLISH SCHOOLS WILL BE LIMITED TO: CHILDREN WHOSE MOTHER OR FATHER RECEIVED PRIMARY EDUCATION IN AN ENGLISH SCHOOL IN QUEBEC; CHILDREN EITHER OF WHOSE PARENTS RESIDED IN QUEBEC BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LAW AND RECEIVED PRIMARY EDUCATION IN ENGLISH OUTSIDE QUEBEC; AND ANY CHILD WHOSE OLDER SIBLING WAS ATTENDING AN ENGLISH SCHOOL IN QUEBEC BEFORE ENACTMENT OF THE LAW.

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EM YESTERDAY MINSTATE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT LAURIN FORMALLY TABLED AMENDMENT TO BILL 101 ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY LEVESQUE IN HIS LETTER TO PROVINCIAL PREMIERS OF JULY 21. (QUEBEC 0278) THE AMENDMENT WOULD ALLOW CANADIANS MOVING TO QUEBEC FROM OTHER PROVINCES TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO ENGLISH SCHOOLS IF THEIR HOME PROVINCES SIGN RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS GIVING QUEBECOIS SIMILAR ACCESS TO FRENCH SCHOOLS. THE STAGE IS NOW SET FOR

LEVESQUE TO ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE SUCH AGREEMENTS AT ST.ANDREWS
NEXT WEEK.

4. PRESS HAS BEEN SPECULATING THAT GOVT WILL IMPOSE CLOTURE ON
BILL 101 DEBATE EARLY NEXT WEEK. IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR
PQ TO JUSTIFY CLOTURE IF THE OPPOSITION WERE CONDUCTING AN
OUTRIGHT FILIBUSTER, BUT THAT IS NOT THE CASE. OPPOSITION HAS
BEEN DEBATING EACH CLAUSE WITH SPIRIT, BUT HAS NOT EMPLOYED
CLASSIC FILIBUSTER TACTICS. WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT GOVT WILL
NOT BRING DOWN THE GUILLOTINE ON THE DEBATE UNTIL AFTER
LEVESQUE RETURNS FROM ST. ANDREWS AUGUST 20.
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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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